

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/519,174
Reply to Office Action dated October 15, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method for determination of characteristics and/or classification of circulating macrophages and/or peripheral mononuclear blood cells comprising the steps of:

taking whole blood and gradient centrifugation for isolating macrophages, ~~peroration~~ perforation and said macrophage cells[.];

intracellular staining of said cells with at least one selected antibody; and

flow cytometric analysis of said pre-treated cells comprising subsequent ~~statistical~~ evaluation counting and analysis of physical and molecular characteristics of a plurality of cells.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method of claim 1, wherein ~~the use of~~ said at least one selected antibody comprises prostate-specific antigen (PSA), cytokeratin and/or or epithelial membrane antigen as ~~said selected antibody/ies~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method of claim 1, wherein, after carrying out flow cytometry, performing ~~wherein~~ histogram analysis of the isotype control and staining of said cells ~~after carrying out flow cytometry~~.

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4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Method of claim 1 for detecting parts of tissue cells uptaken by phagocytosis of a scattered prostate tumor outside the human body.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Method of claim 4, wherein ~~it is determined~~ by said staining of PSA in said macrophages, it is determined whether said material taken up by phagocytosis is prostate relevant.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Analysis arrangement of~~ A kit for carrying out said method of claim 1 comprising means for heparinizing drained blood, a gradient centrifuge for isolating macrophages, means for cell perforation, a device for intracellular staining of said pretreated cells with fluorochrome antibodies and a flow cytometer comprising a computer supported evaluation unit for determining the intracellular structure of the isolated and pretreated cell for the purpose of early diagnostic of tumors.